

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beavers et al (PGPUB 2004/0002049).

As per claim 1, Beavers et al. teach method for delivering a class session to students with client terminals in a virtual classroom (Computer Network-Based, Interactive, Multimedia Learning System and Process), the method comprising the steps of:

(a) interpreting operations performed at a super client terminal in accordance with a teacher's actions (an equipment set for capturing audio and video (A/V) is also present at the presenter's site and ideally at all the remote sites as well) [0023]; and

(b) sending relevant commands and parameters based on the teacher's actions to client terminals to cause similar operations to be performed on the client terminals (each of

the A/V equipment sets is connected to the aforementioned network computer at each site and provides A/V from the site to all the other sites via the network) [0023]; wherein the students' experience relating to presentation of the media objects at the clients terminals is controlled based on the operations performed at the super client terminals (graphical user interface window that allows a presenter to initiate, run, and broadcast a presentation slide program in conjunction with a educational lecture or business presentation) [0129];.

As per claim 2, Beavers et al teach wherein the operations performed at the super client terminal includes presenting media objects selected by the teacher (information sector is used to display text, graphics, and/or animations that the presenter wishes to include as supporting material for the lecture) [0026], that are pre-stored on a storage medium (In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the computer, may be stored in the remote memory storage device) [0104].

As per claim 3, Beavers et al teach wherein the operations performed at the super client terminal includes presenting media objects provided by the teacher, that are not pre-stored on the storage medium (program modules may be located in both local and remote computer storage media including memory storage devices) [0097] .

As per claim 4, Beavers et al teach wherein the students' experience is controlled through the controlling (the control bar is made up of a series of control buttons and a selection field that are used by the presenter to run the presentation slide show) [00176], by the teacher, of any of start, stop, and pause actions of the presentation of

the media objects (the client can control the playback to pause, forward, reverse, stop and restart the playback).

As per claim 5, Beavers et al teach a method for recording a class session in a virtual classroom, comprising the steps of:

- (a) recording selected media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034];
- (b) recording presentation information associated with each of the selected media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034];
- (c) generating a table of contents containing all of the selected media objects being presented during the class session, along with the associated presentation information so as to allow the class session to be subsequently simulated in a desired order based on the table of contents (an individual participant can access the lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035].

As per claim 6, Beavers et al teach a method for recording a class session in a virtual classroom, comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating a reference to each of selected media objects (a file is generated that contains entries identifying each slide presented and the time it was displayed) [0152] pre-stored on the storage medium, that is presented during the class session;

(b) recording presentation information associated with each of the selected media objects (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034]; and
(c) generating a table of contents containing the references to the selected media objects (an individual participant can access the lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035], along with the associated presentation information so as to allow the class session to be subsequently simulated based on the table of contents.

As per claim 7, Beavers et al teach wherein the selected media objects include all of the media objects pre-stored on the storage medium (lecture playback program and the archiving program resident on the computer responsible for archiving the lecture it is desired to playback) [0037].

As per claim 8, Beavers et al teach a method, further comprising a step of generating a reference to each of media objects being presented during the class session, that is not pre-stored on the storage medium (the archiving feature is implemented via a .net TCP remoting transport scheme) [0037].

As per claim 9, Beavers et al teach a method further comprising the steps of:

recording each of the media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data

streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034], that is not pre-stored on the storage medium; and

recording presentation information associated with each of the media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034], that is not pre-stored on the storage medium;

wherein the table of contents further includes references to the media objects being presented during the class session (an individual participant can access the lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035], that is not pre-stored on the storage medium.

As per claim 10, Beavers et al teach wherein the presentation information is provided from a super client who administers the class session (the presenter and assistants would also have the ability to access the archiving program to initiate the recording of the data streams and associated metadata generated during a lecture in the lecture database) [0036].

As per claim 11, Beavers et al teach, wherein the presentation information includes timing information associated with presentation of each of the media objects during in the class session(a file is generated that contains entries identifying each slide presented and the time it was displayed) [0152].

As per claim 12, Beavers et al teach, wherein the timing information includes information about start and stop time of the presentation of each of the associated

media objects during the class session (in regard to question, the time stamps can be used to synchronize them with the lecture (which is also recorded) so that the context of when the question was asked can be recovered) [0254].

As per claim 13, Beavers et al teach, wherein the presentation information includes layout information associated with presentation of each of the media objects during the class session, the layout information specifying the relative position of the associated media objects on a display screen (archiving feature records multiple streams (audio, video, presentation slides) in a synchronous fashion, and supports synchronized playback of all or selected ones of the recorded streams) [0258] (also see Fig. 40).

As per claim 14, Beavers et al teach a method, further comprising a step of generating a corresponding file based on the table of contents, which is executable to simulate the class session being presented, the corresponding file being based on one of the ECMA (European Computer Manufacturers Association)-script and XML (Extensible Markup Language) (the .NET TCP remoting service would provide a graphical user interface that would facilitate performing the previously described actions in regard to managing the database) [0040].

As per claim 15, Beavers et al teach, wherein each of the references is a uniform resource locator (URL) (each buffer manager allocates a database writer thread from the .NET thread pool) [0282].

As per claim 16, Beavers et al teach , wherein the storage medium is an optic disc (storage media includes, (DVD) or other optical disk storage) [0099].

As per claim 17, Beavers et al teach a method, further comprising the steps of generating a media identification (ID) for each of the media objects being presented during the class session (a file is generated that contains entries identifying each slide presented and the time it was displayed) [0152]; wherein the table of contents further includes all the medium IDs associated with the respective media objects being presented during the class session.

As per claim 18, Beavers et al teach a system for delivering a class session to students with client terminals in a virtual classroom, comprising:

means for interpreting operations performed at a super client terminal in *accordance* with a teacher's actions (an equipment set for capturing audio and video (A/V) is also present at the presenter's site and ideally at all the remote sites as well) [0023];

means for sending relevant commands and parameters based on the teacher's actions to client terminals to cause similar operations to be performed on the client terminals(each of the A/V equipment sets is connected to the aforementioned network computer at each site and provides A/V from the site to all the other sites via the network) [0023] ; and

means for controlling the students' experience relating to presentation of the media objects at the clients terminals, based on the operations performed at the super client (graphical user interface window that allows a presenter to initiate, run, and broadcast a presentation slide program in conjunction with a educational lecture or business presentation) [0129] .

As per claim 19, Beavers et al teach , wherein the operations performed at the super client terminal includes presenting media objects selected by the teacher (information sector is used to display text, graphics, and/or animations that the presenter wishes to include as supporting material for the lecture) [0026], that are pre-stored on a storage medium (CD-ROM) [0099].

As per claim 20, Beavers et al teach a system for recording a class session in a virtual classroom, comprising:

means for recording selected media objects being presented

during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by

synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034];

means for recording presentation information associated with each of the selected media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034]; and

means for generating a table of contents containing all of the selected media objects

being presented during the class session (an individual participant can access the

lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be

requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035], along with the associated presentation information so as

to allow the class session to be subsequently simulated in a desired order based on the table of contents.

As per claim 21, Beavers et al teach a system for recording a class session in a virtual classroom, comprising:

means for generating a reference to each of selected media objects (a file is generated that contains entries identifying each slide presented and the time it was displayed) [0152] pre-stored on the storage medium, that is presented during the class session;
means for recording presentation information associated with each of the selected media objects (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034]; and

means for generating a table of contents containing the references to the selected media objects (an individual participant can access the lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035], along with the associated presentation information so as to allow the class session to be subsequently simulated based on the table of contents.

As per claim 22, Beavers et al teach, wherein the generating

means generates a reference to each of media objects being presented during the class session, that is not pre-stored on the storage medium (the archiving feature is implemented via a .net TCP remoting transport scheme) [0037] .

As per claim 23, Beavers et al teach a system, further comprising:

means for recording each of the media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data

streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034], that is not pre-stored on the storage medium;

wherein the recording means records presentation information associated with each of the media objects being presented during the class session (computers that saves the lecture for and analysis by synchronously recording the data streams and any associated metadata generated by the presenter) [0034] , that is not pre-stored on the storage medium;

wherein the table of contents further includes references to the media objects being presented during the class session (an individual participant can access the lecture database to playback a previously recorded lecture. Playback would be requested by first requesting a list of recorded lectures available the archiving program would provide the list) [0035] , that is not pre-stored on the storage medium.

As per claim 24, Beavers et al teach, wherein the presentation information includes timing information associated with presentation of each of the media objects (a file is generated that contains entries identifying each slide presented and the time it was displayed) [0152] during in the class session .

As per claim 25, Beavers et al teach wherein the presentation information includes layout information associated with presentation of each of the media objects during the class session (archiving feature records multiple streams (audio, video, presentation slides) in a synchronous fashion, and supports synchronized playback of all or selected

ones of the recorded streams) [0258], the layout information specifying the relative position of the associated media objects on a display screen (also see Fig. 40).

As per claim 26, Beavers et al teach a system, further comprising means for generating a corresponding file based on the table of contents, which is executable to simulate the class session being presented, the corresponding file being based on one of the ECMA (European Computer Manufacturers Association) script and XML (Extensible Markup Language) (the .NET TCP remoting service would provide a graphical user interface that would facilitate performing the previously described actions in regard to managing the database) [0040].

As per claim 27, Beavers et al teach wherein each of the references is a uniform resource locator (URL) (each buffer manager allocates a database writer thread from the .NET thread pool) [0282].

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Thurmaier et al. (US PGPUB 20040002048) discloses a method and system providing a virtual computer classroom.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUINTIN LATHAN JR whose telephone number is (571)270-3846. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday Alt-Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

Art Unit: 4193

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

QJL

/Taghi T. Arani/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4193
4/11/2008